



# The Toulter

## THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY



Issue No. 67

Suggested Donation £1.50

AUTUMN 2015

### Fairytale Toadstool



Winner of the Autumn Cover Photo competition is Caroline Breen with her very seasonal picture of a Fairytale Toadstool.

### Photo Competition

The Photo Competition for the WINTER issue is Seasonal Trees and Flora. How you interpret that is up to you, but pictures must be taken in the Kirkmichael and Tomintoul area. The winning picture will appear on the front of the Winter edition of the Toulter, and the photographer will receive a £20 prize. Digital images, in the highest resolution possible, should be emailed to:

***thetoulter@yahoo.com*** and traditional prints sent to:

***The Toulter, c/o 11 Cults Drive, Tomintoul, Ballindalloch, AB37 9HW.***

Entries close on Monday 7th December, 2015



Runner-up in the Photo Competition is Mike Budd with another Autumnal Fungus.

## Congratulations



The Marriage of Miss Laura Stuart, Heathfield, Tomintoul and Mr Mark Neil, Woodlands, Castle Douglas took place in Tomintoul Parish Church on 5th September, 2015. Laura is the only daughter of Margo and Edward Suart and Mark is the second son of John and Margaret Neil.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Chris Wallace and Father Colin Stewart gave a blessing and prayer.

The reception was held in the Balfour Manor Hotel and The Richmond Memorial Hall Tomintoul. The happy couple live and work in London.



This fantastic capture of a goldfinch with it's newly fledged young was sent to The Toulter by Graeme Taylor, Glenmulliach House, Tomintoul.. Many thanks for sharing it with us Graeme!

# Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association

*“A’ leasachadh an dòigh-beatha airson a h-uile duine”*

*“Working together to improve community life for all”*

The minutes of the meeting of May 20th were agreed as a true record. Proposer, C. Thomson and Secunder-T. Birchall. There were no matters arising.

*1. Reports.*

**The Crown.** Vicky Hilton. Graham Findlay is the new full time Assistant Ranger.

Wigwams to be constructed in 2016.

There has been vandalism at the hide with floor boards being broken.

The Tomintoul Hub for Nature event will be repeated next year. Comment was made that people were not fully aware of the event. Vicky said that publicity will be improved next year.

Vicky expressed her concern with regard to camping on the Gateway site at the motor bike event, feeling that it was inappropriate

**The Moray Council** . Councillor Fiona Murdoch. The Council is considering providing funding for the TGDT Development Officer. It is expected by 2018 that TGDT would be self funding but to pull out prematurely would be unfair.

The Council is discussing the situation if they need to take over from Crown Estate, two representatives from Tomintoul are invited to be a part of this discussion.

Mike Fletcher thanked Fiona Murdoch for her work in following up a range of issues from the last meeting.

**The Landscape Partnership.** Marion McDonald. Projects are now out to funding. Event in Tomintoul on 25th August. Ideas are desired from local people.

On 20th September there will be a Nature Day with guided walks and talks.

Marion has moved office to the Museum, drop in sessions are on Thursdays from 2-5pm.

**TGDT.** Representatives were unable to attend

due to a clash of meetings. Mike Fletcher mentioned the excellent recent newsletter from the Trust. The next TGDT open day is on 2nd September. KATCA is working as closely as possible with TGDT.

**CNPA.** Eleanor Mackintosh. CNPA is strongly supporting TGDT and the Landscape Partnership. The Park is very committed to funding for the area

**The Speyside Forum.** Patricia Grant. Looking to tap into development funding for Tomintoul Games.

*2. Walking For Health.*

Mike Fletcher. A walking group has been started in the village, meeting once per week, on Fridays at 10am, at The Smuggler’s Hostel. The group is organised by Alan Melrose and is part of a much wider programme. It is available for anyone in the village. 7 leaders volunteered for training. Local doctors are willing to encourage people to join the group. The walks are of about one hour duration and are very much aimed at increasing health and well-being.

*3. The Children’s Playground, Main Street.*

Mike Fletcher covered the huge amount of consultation that had taken place, including the Council displaying designs in the school hall. People living around the playground were feeling harassed. KATCA tried to help everyone to arrive at a fair compromise, encouraging good play and good behaviour. It was not important if the playground closed at 8pm, as suggested or remained open. The main consideration was that parents took responsibility. An unpleasant campaign was undertaken by some people in the village with a great amount of abuse on Facebook etc. This caused great distress and was very misinformed. Due to this KATCA has had to withdraw from any involvement in the



project. A concern is that the Council has not provided any signage to the play area to enforce Council rules, this was promised and has been followed up on a number of occasions but as yet with no success.

#### 4. General Matters.

a] Roads - Conglass lane has been resurfaced to a good standard.

b] Signs - Smiley Face-- had been placed in temporary operation by Moray Council to limit speed on Main Street. Patricia Grant asked about the old sign, which had been removed and commented that it provided important information. Blue Sign- this has been moved away from the road edge at the northern end of the village to allow clear visibility from Stuart Place.

c] The Gateway - Ron Hughes commented on the poor presentation that the Gateway is giving on entry to our village. He read out a range of information that showed that the project is not what was promised. A number of visitors and local people had made observations that the area is a blot on the landscape and gives a poor first impression. Discussion covered the amount of weed, tree growth, the removal of the second entrance, etc. Agreed that Mike and Ron would hold a discussion with Hamish Trench, Director of the CNPA.

d] Car Park Bins - now massive abuse of the bins, recently they have been overflowing with domestic rubbish and often present a very poor welcome to our village. The Council have made extra visits to clear up the mess. They have identified one culprit and are taking action.

e] Queen Victoria's Viewpoint - Recent article and photographs in the Toulter showed that the viewpoint is in need of attention in the form of repair/care. Agreed Mike Fletcher to contact Bidwells to request that the area is assessed and improved.

f] New Year Celebration - No events have been held for a few years. Tony Birchall suggested that a community event is held. Ron Hughes said that sub-committee could be formed to look at the feasibility of putting on an event.

g] Car Park Lighting - deferred.

h] Winter Wonderland - Event to take place on December 5th.

i] 52 Main Street- had been followed up as a dangerous building. Repair has been undertaken.

j] The Garage Site- not moving forward, fencing still a problem and the site is a mess. KATCA and local residents have contacted the owner but to no real improvement. Possibly now an issue for the Health and Safety Executive.

k] Defibrillator- Thank you to Caroline and Cathal Breen for allowing the box to be sited on the PO. "Business" type cards are to be posted to each house on the use of the machine.

l] Tennis Court- vandalism to the shed and equipment is regularly taking place. Caroline Breen said that she would be willing to have the equipment in the PO and to let children collect/return each item.

m] Events- The village has had a number of successful events in 2015; Rock and Road [TGDT], The Toulter 10, the Motorcycle Gathering, Games Day.....all organised by local people. Discussion took place about the events and the success being brought to the village. The number of local people volunteering was also praised. Tony Birchall said that the 10k race will donate over £1,000 to KATCA.

n] ENTRUST- Mike Fletcher explained the history of ENTRUST and its donation to village projects. An inspector is shortly coming to see Mike to review the £3,000 still available to KATCA. Agreed to look at using the money for quality village sign /information boards possibly including finger post signs. The aim is to help businesses and visitors.

5. A.O.B. Eleanor Mackintosh said the Leader project has a launch on 16th September, applications are required for projects needing funding.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Dates of Future General Meetings- 18th November 2015, 17th February 2016, 18th May 2016 [AGM], 17th August 2016. All Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

## Wildlife Observations

This has been a strange year weather-wise; the spring was late and the summer was not the best that we could have hoped for however some of the wildlife seemed to have prospered despite the poor conditions.

I was walking down the Smiddy Lane one morning when I came across the body of a weasel with its throat torn. This is a fairly unusual injury for such a fierce predator. Despite its size a weasel is a formidable animal and I can only surmise that a stoat had killed it. I do not think that a cat would have attempted this as it would have opened itself to some damage. When I was out again in the early evening I purposely went to look for the body but it was nowhere to be seen. It could have been taken by birds but more probably some of its own family took the body away. This is something that is quite common in members of the weasel family, squirrels and martins also do this.

Towards the middle of August there were many swallows collecting in the telegraph wires and it seemed that they were preparing to migrate. The weather was quite cool then however it appeared that they decided that the time was not right as

they were still here towards the end of the month. This year I again had swallows in the garage but I am not sure whether the nest was successful.

It is good to see that the pewits had a successful season and last year the young birds were absolutely decimated by gulls. This year there did not seem to be so many gulls on the go although that may be wishful thinking.

We are inundated around here by corvids of all types, rooks, crows and jackdaws are everywhere and these highly intelligent birds are very innovative in how they find nest sites and food. When I was young we used to shoot the nests in the spring which controlled the numbers but this practice is no longer legal and accordingly numbers have increased. I had jackdaws nesting in my through room chimney and after some work they were expelled and I put a cowl on the chimney pot. It was not there more than a few days when they were trying to dislodge it as that they could set up home again. I noticed them working as a pair, very innovative.

Although the weather here has been mixed we did not suffer the devastating floods that were experienced throughout the central belt where many farmers suffered devastating losses by way of crops. Luckily the topography here means that the water tends to run off fairly quickly. Hopefully the Back End will produce more conducive weather and the Hearst will be productive.

I notice that there are not so many berries around but that may be quite local and there will still be Sloes, Brambles, Rowans and Haws to be had for those who forage.

After such a mixed year so far hopefully winter will be kind to us but you never can tell!!



## Tomintoul Gardening Club

This year we have as yet been unable to have our Spring/Summer outing due to various reasons however we are very hopeful that we will be able to have an outing once the leaves have turned. Last year we went to Glen Affric in the back end and the colours on display were spectacular although it was a fairly long day but we did manage to have Lunch and Afternoon Tea out so that was a bonus.

We are coming to the end of the season for the club the last meeting being in October but we will be planning for our Christmas Meal although this is very dependant in weather and the availability of the members so sometimes it is not held before Christmas. It is always a pleasant outing with a surprise whenever it happens.

The club meets on the last Thursday of the Month from March until October. It is non-competitive so if you want to come along we meet in the Residents' Lounge, Tomnabat Court.

*Patricia Grant  
Chairman*



### Tomintoul Book Exchange

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community

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Books to the Exchange

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Any book £1 each

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**When?**

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Improvement to the village and  
surrounding community

## The Defibrillator

A village defibrillator is now in place and is located on the front wall of the Post Office. A "business" type of card will be delivered to all homes/businesses in the village explaining how to access the defibrillator. In an emergency you will need to dial 999 and to request the cabinet access code from the operator. Once activated the machine will instruct on its use via its display. Businesses around the area of the Square in Tomintoul will be given the access code, as will any other business that may request it. The defibrillator was organised by KATCA and funded by the British Heart Foundation and Aberlour and Speyside Rotary. I would also like to thank Caroline and Cathal at the Post Office for their support.

*Mike Fletcher.*


### SNIPPETS

Mosquitoes are drawn to their target initially via smell, then sight and finally heat.

### TOMINTOUL VILLAGE STORE & POST OFFICE



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#### Extended Opening Times!

Store opened daily from 8.30 to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday, and Sundays opened 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.30pm.

Post Office open Monday to Saturday from 9 to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm, early closing on Wednesday at 1pm and Saturday at 12.30pm.

#### Proud to Serve the Local Community

Village Store & Post Office, The Square, Tomintoul, AB37 9ET,  
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## Walking for Health



A Walking For Health group has been formed in Tomintoul. This is a project aimed at getting people to walk regularly and thereby to improve their health.

The group meets each week on Friday at 10am. Until the end of October the meeting place is at the Smuggler's Hostel. The hostel will close at the end of October and a new starting place will be chosen.

A number of people volunteered to be leaders and a training day was held in July. The leaders organise the route for each week. The walk is about an hour in duration and is aimed at all abilities. The aim is for it to be a good social experience and each walk ends with a time to cat and a coffee/tea.

The group is expanding in size with fourteen people attending the last walk. It is tremendous that we managed to get quality leaders, a big

thank you to: Sandra Sawyer, Jenny Christie, Amanda Burslow, Donald MacKinnon and Sheila MacKinnon. Thank you also to Kerry Greaves at the Smuggler's for providing a venue/refreshments.

Please contact one of the leaders if you are interested in taking part. If you have not walked for a while this could be ideal for you. If you do some regular walking the leaders will also meet your needs. The walks will continue throughout the year.

The project is part of a Walking For Health programme which is now operating in many places. I would like to thank Alan Melrose for initiating this in Tomintoul and for providing support and training.

*Mike Fletcher*





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### Can you Help Us in the Hall?

We are looking to recruit a relief hall keeper for the Richmond Memorial Hall. The position would suit someone based in the village or with their own transport. Duties would initially include opening and closing the hall, recording electricity usage and setting up tables and chairs. You will need to be reliable and flexible towards working occasional evenings and weekends. If you think you could help us keep this community facility running smoothly, email me on [jennwfraser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jennwfraser@hotmail.co.uk) or speak to any committee member. (Jennifer Fraser, Michele Birnie or Roy Hill).

# News from the Community Car Share Scheme

As always I will begin by mentioning (in no particular order) all those who have recently supported us with financial assistance. It is so good to know that we have the confidence and trust of so many in our communities.

The Independent Glenlivet and Inveravon News Group, The Tomnabat Hill Committee, Rothes Windfarm Community Trust, Keith and Alan for the recycled wooden items they donate for us to sell, all the people who went along to the 'Canny wi' Cash' events and voted for us, The Santander Foundation and the Moray Council who, through the transport department, have supported us once again this year. Also I would like to mention all the people who for personal and private reasons have seen fit to donate to the scheme. Thank you all so very much indeed for helping to keep our wheels turning, we really appreciate it and we couldn't do a single mile without you.

Financial support is extremely important but as, I think everyone knows, the scheme needs a little more than this alone. It is only really able to operate through the goodwill, dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

Community Transport volunteers are special and have many reasons for doing what they do but mostly it is because they wish to be a useful and valued member of their community. To do this they choose to help others with their need to access the services we all take for granted.

We are always able to offer an opportunity to anyone who feels they would like to be involved with such a long standing community asset. We do not require our drivers to donate regular hours and will only call on them once a member has informed us of their need to travel. If it is inconvenient then the journey can be refused and our telephonist will ring someone else until a driver is found who can provide for that need.

If you have some time to spare, have your own car and enjoy driving and would like to meet some nice people and make new friends, whilst serving your community, then please



get in touch. The offer will be subject to full disclosure checks under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme and subsequent membership of that scheme. A mileage allowance will be paid to you for each journey you undertake.

If you would like more information about what it takes to be a volunteer driver with the Speyside Community Car Share Scheme then please contact; - Irene Shaw (Project Co-ordinator) 01340 832 350 or email [irene.shaw1@googlemail.com](mailto:irene.shaw1@googlemail.com)

If you live in Rothes, Aberlour, Archiestown, Dufftown, Glenlivet, Tomintoul, or the surrounding areas and you have difficulty getting around to certain things because of age, disability or infirmity then we might be able to help. Telephone 01340 831 748 between 9.00am- 5.00pm (Mon.-Fri.) and speak to one of our volunteer telephonists who will give you all the information about eligibility for becoming a member.

## SNIPPETS

It seems that polar bears are not adapting to warmer conditions in the Arctic, which somewhat paradoxically reduces their chosen food supply



# FLY TIPPING IN TOMINTOUL

Recently, this was the first impression of Tomintoul that visitors saw when they parked in the car park.

**Lovely isn't it....what an impression to give!**

Fortunately, it was reported to Moray Council, and two managers duly arrived with a van and trailer to remove it, and go through the bags to locate the perpetrator.

Information of offenders is passed on to the community wardens, and Fixed Penalties Notices can be issued.

All this rubbish should have been dropped off, free of charge to householders, at any of the



recycling centres in Keith, Buckie, Elgin and Forres, which are open 08:00-16:00 Monday to Saturday, and 10:00-15:00 on Sundays.

There are various skips at the sites for segregating different types of waste, of which the majority is recycled.

Dumping rubbish seems to be a continuing

problem, both in the car park, and at the recycling centre at the bottom of the village.

There is no excuse for this blot on our landscape.....it is quite simple really....take your rubbish to the appropriate recycling centre....don't take the lazy option! Keep Tomintoul clean and tidy, and somewhere to be proud of.

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## LIBRARY TIMES

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1.30pm to 3.30pm</b> and <b>6pm to 7.30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1.30pm to 3.30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10am to 12 noon</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6pm to 7.30pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1.30pm to 3.30pm</b>

Don't forget you can always phone during these hours to renew your books, place a reservation on a book you fancy reading or to book time on the People's Network Internet computers.

Our number is **01807 580755**

# Accident on Main Street

On the evening of Thursday, 3rd September an accident took place on Main Street alongside the old school site. A tractor and trailer became out of control and bales of straw were scattered across the road. A house was damaged with windows being broken. This must have been very distressing for the owner.



with regard to the safety of the load and the procedures undertaken.

It is concerning as the tractor and load had travelled a fair distance up Main Street passing many residential properties and the children's playground.

The tractor careered across the street destroying a section of the school wall and damaging the building. This demonstrated the force of the impact and the tractor settled on to its side. The tractor driver was slightly injured and fortunately no other people were in the vicinity at the time.

The owner of the tractor appeared to blame the corner at the bottom of the village for unsettling the load.

This accident poses a number of questions

If anything the incident highlights the need for careful driving through the village.

## RBS MOBILE BANK TIMETABLE.

**A new timetable for the weekly visit to Tomintoul began on the first week of September.**

**The van will now visit on Wednesdays from 1.30pm to 2.15pm and, as usual, will park in the Square.**

# THAIN

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## A Fishing Trip

After months of preparation of rods, reel, making hooks, replacing lines on reels, dreams of monster salmon and bags full of silvery sea trout.

The car had been serviced, filled with petrol and fishing tackle ...

At last the day had arrived. I awoke excitedly at 1.30 am. So as not to waken anyone, I got up very quietly. Picked up my clothes and shoes and carried them downstairs. The kettle soon boiled as I quickly dressed, then made a large flask of coffee.

I rang David, my brother-in-law. Within 3 seconds he answered, explaining that he was standing beside the phone about to ring me. We were talking in whispers, whilst arranging to pick him up at 2.15.

I wrote a note each for Elaine, Helen and Jamie, containing some spending money and explaining that I would be back before they knew it.

I got into the car. Would it start? After what seemed ages, it started. David was ready, waiting at the gate with all his equipment and a big, happy smile.

David drove the first half of the journey, which enabled me to enjoy my flask of coffee. As we got onto the M55 motorway, a sigh of relief – we were going to enjoy a beautiful few days alone with nature at its most wild, spectacular and peaceful, not a telephone in sight. We were eating up the miles and by daylight we would be over the border into Scotland, with some nice scenery to soak up and admire.

We were heading for the Richmond Arms Hotel in Tomintoul, a distance of 325 miles, the last 100 miles through the most beautiful countryside in Britain.

The party consisted of my 2 brother-in-laws, David and Grant, and Peter and Dennis – all from Blackpool. Grant, Peter and Dennis were already there and when I telephone them the previous evening I learned that we were to fish Beat 3, my favourite beat, on the first day, so in gaps in the conversation I was already fishing my favourite pools on the river.

Dawn began at 4.30 and was complete by

5.00. David began to worry about petrol, because above southern Scotland there were no petrol stations open until 8 am, a fact we learned when we ran out of petrol two years previously. The engine started to overheat so we thought it wise to slow down slightly, each river we crossed we studied for height.

The road to Braemar and to Balmoral was beautiful. Some of the little cottages were lighting their peat fires and the smoke was going straight up. Balmoral castle stood majestically in the mist, The Royal Dee looked good. From Balmoral we had to turn off the main road and drive high up into the mountains. It is a 23 miles- a very long 23 miles. The road had been improved since I first travelled along it. The only tarmac was in the ruts made by tyres trying to grip going up the hills, but most of it is still only single track.

Approaching Tomintoul, which is visible from about 2 miles away, it was still asleep. The time was just before 7.30am. As we parked the car in front of the hotel, which was still very quiet, we thought of the enormous breakfast which would be set before us in an hour's time. Dennis saw us from the window of his room and came out to greet us. We asked him about recent catches and the water height. Peter and Grant then came out, looking as if they had been sampling some of the superb malt whiskeys the night before. We then assembled our rods and got everything ready for a quick getaway after breakfast.

It was very pleasant to see all the old friends, staff and fishermen again. We were chatting about where we thought we would catch fish, whilst devouring our eggs, bacon, sausage, tomatoes, toast and a pot of tea.

*To be continued...*

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## Tomintoul SWRI



Well, here we are again at the start of another year in the rural calendar, and what a fantastic syllabus we have lined up.

We have, in October, a talk by our very own minister Chris Wallace who is coming to talk to us about his

time as a volunteer.

Then in November we have Jane Lannagan coming to do crafts with us and Shona Thomson is coming in December to show us how to do seed bead jewellery.

We will be having a speaker coming to give us hints on how to improve our photography in February and in April 2016 Sally Charlesworth will be coming back. Sally is an artist and crafter from Aberlour who specialises in up-cycling.

As well as these speakers we have monthly competitions that include baking and crafts, there is always something that everyone is able to manage.

Anyone who would like to join the rural can come along the first Wednesday of the month to the community lounge situated in the sheltered housing complex in Tomnabat Lane and will be made most welcome.

### SNIPPETS

Passenger aircraft must have ashtrays even though smoking is not allowed.

Naughty people exist.

During the summer months certain of our members have been busy entering local craft shows with crafts ranging from jam & cakes to knitting and crochet, with a great deal of success as well.

Grantown Show was first on the list where those who entered coming away with a large amount of prizes between them, the Keith Show was next where success was also achieved and then the Dufftown Flower Show where our members who entered also did well, with one member getting best exhibit in their class and winning the Ferrier Rose Bowl.

So, all in all it has been a very busy year. On top of this our members knit for the Queen Mothers Clothing guild, this is a year round thing and anyone can do this, it is not just rural members. So if you would like to be a part of this then do come and join us.

*Sandra Sawyer  
Press Secretary*

**TOMINTOUL  
Parent, Baby and  
Toddler Group**

**Every Monday** (term  
time)  
**9.15am - 11.15am**  
**at**  
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For more information contact: Zoe on 07799660169  
Please note: Children must be under parents  
supervision and care at all times.

## Youth Group



The Speyside Engagement Team, due to demand from local young people is aiming to create settings where young people can meet and develop programmes in a safe and welcoming environment.

Following a meeting with the committee of the Grant Hall in Rothes it was confirmed that the recently refurbished coffee bar would be ideal.

Adult volunteers are needed to ensure that this can be maintained thus allowing Engagement team youth work staff to establish similar settings in other parts of Speyside.

We are also aiming to recruit volunteers to work in other parts of Speyside.

So if you already have experience or wish to gain experience or you may be thinking of youth work as a career this opportunity would be an excellent starting point. Whatever stage you are at you will be welcomed. Initial training will be provided and ongoing training and support will be offered. All volunteers will be expected to successfully undertake a P.V.G. check before commencing.

For further details please contact, Toni Taylor (Youth Worker) on 07976 494827 and [toni.taylor@moray.gov.uk](mailto:toni.taylor@moray.gov.uk) or David Millar (C.L.D.W.) on 07800 670693 and [david.millar@moray.gov.uk](mailto:david.millar@moray.gov.uk)



## Update on New Bus Service

Just to let you know the new service 365 which links Tomintoul to Keith and back will start Tuesday 27th October, it will run throughout the year - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Please note the 0750 service 363C is School Days Only

Times are given below for buses to Aberdeen from Keith, but you could alternatively catch the Elgin bus early from Aberlour and then onto Inverness and return to Tomintoul from Aberlour or Dufftown at the end of the day. This information has been provided by Chris Hall, Planning Officer Community Transport, Moray Council.

Any queries please contact by e mail - [chris.hall@moray.gov.uk](mailto:chris.hall@moray.gov.uk) or by phoning the main switchboard: on 01343 543451.

Times are -

### Service 363C Operated by Deveron Coaches (School Days Only)

Tomintoul	0750
Aberlour	0835

### Service 365 Operated by the Moray Council

Aberlour	0905
Craigellachie Hotel	0915
Mulben	0934
Keith Square	0950

### Service 10 Operated by Stagecoach

Keith Square	1025
Aberdeen	1208

### Service 10 Operated by Stagecoach

Aberdeen	1425
Keith	1608

### Service 365 Operated by the Moray Council

Keith Square	1630
Mulben	1646
Craigellachie	1705
Aberlour	1715
Dufftown	1730
Tomintoul	1755

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## Clippings from the Library



The library has been busy entertaining and inspiring our younger reader in the last few weeks here's a taster of what we have been up to...

The theme for the Tesco Bank summer reading challenge this year was 'Record Breakers' and nearly twenty children joined in at Tomintoul Library, with most reading six books and some reading many, many more!

During September we held a 'Legs and Tales' photography competition in the library which encouraged readers to think about which animal book character their pet looked like. As you might expect we received a wide range of creative entries, from dogs to guinea pigs to goldfish but in the end the prize went to a hen called Blackie. Blackie bears a striking resemblance to the broody hen Hilda who features in Jill Tomlinson's book 'The Hen Who Wouldn't Give Up'. As animals are not allowed in the library (not even prize winning ones) first prize was presented to Blackie's owner Amara Nairn.

Also in September I was lucky enough to be asked to join the primary five to seven classes from Tomintoul and Glenlivet schools on their trip to the Moray book festival. Were we are thoroughly entertained by children's author and illustrator Nick Sharratt and learned a lot during our Robert Louis Stevenson workshop. I'm sure the pupil came away as inspired as I did! Some of the kids had never been to Elgin library before but now they have seen the facilities on offer I hope they will be nagging you to go back.

I am shocked to tell you we have also seen a terrible crime has occurred in the library, a first edition signed copy of Sherlock Holmes has been stolen from under our very noses...So began the tale woven by theatrical company Frozen Charlotte when they visited the library recently. The children from P5 to 7 were then invited to hunt for clues, unscramble codes, identify suspects and ultimately solve the mystery. This was a great fun exercise in reasoning, problem solving and information searching which really engaged the children and got them using the library (and their brains) in new ways. We definitely have a few potential detectives in the school.

Finally, during October and November we are running our annual Made in Scotland reading challenge to encourage the kids to learn more about Scottish authors. This year were are also running an accompanying drawing competition. I already have more children signed up this year than ever before so it looks like another busy month...

*Jennifer*



### Graham Walker Fishmonger

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seafood supplied to  
your home.*



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Herring, Mackerel, Trout, Cod, Hot Smoked Salmon, Monkfish.*

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Tomintoul between 12 noon and 5pm each Thursday**

**Telephone: 01261 843989 - Mobile 07974426081**



## Casting Peats in Carloway

When I was younger I used to try to take a week's holiday with Agnes Smith's sister Mary in Carloway on the Isle of Lewis. My holidays were always the last week in May and the first week in June at the time when the peats were cast.

I had been there for about four days when Mary's brother-in-law Donald announced that we would be going to the moss to cut peats that evening. The weather was fine and I got no option but to accompany them. Now, I cast peats here using a breast spade but that is not the implement that they use in the Western Isles. There they use a tarashcan; this is a tusk shaped implement with a long blade and a foot plate. The peats cut using this are much bigger than the brick shaped ones we cut here and casting is a two man job; one cutting and the other catching the peats and placing them on the top of the bank. It should be noted that the banks over there are only 'about 4' deep not like the 15'-20' odd in the Feamusach.

We duly set out for the moss after an early tea at about 5.00, Manna, Donald, their son Seoras and me, duly armed with two tusks. Now, I tend to get myself a bit dirty when I am casting but never mind. To begin with Donald was cutting and I was throwing up on to the top of the layer but after about an hour and a half we changed places. The first peats I cut were not great but I eventually

got the hang of it and between us all we managed to get quite a lot cut. It was decided to call it a night about 8.30 and to head back to the house for a well earned cup of tea and a beer.

While we were walking back Donald remarked "You are very dirty – don't walk beside me they will think I have taken up with a tramp". Anyway once we arrived back at the house there was no beer so I set off for the pub, Doone Braes, about a mile away to get a carry-out. I did not bother to wash as I would do that later. Now I have been in a bar all my life and I thought nothing of entering the Public Bar of the hotel to get the carry-out. However when I entered I was immediately told by the barman, D R MacLeod a cousin of Agnes', that ladies were not served in there and I would have to go next door to the Cocktail Bar. When advised of this I protested that I had worked in a pub all of my adult life and anyway I was filthy. This held no sway and I was told if I did not go through to the cocktail bar then I would not be served. Knowing that they were waiting for me to return with the beer I duly complied however on entering the cocktail bar I was greeted with cries of "You should be with the men in the back bar". You can't win sometimes

Once I had purchased the beer and returned to the house I related what had transpired which led to howls of laughter and comments like "just imagine if you tried that at home". I confronted D R the next day before leaving to catch the ferry for my return advising that there was nothing that I had not seen or heard before in a pub and anyway those present were talking Gaelic of which my understanding is limited. He was unmoved and stated that as long as he was working at Doone Braes no lady would be served in the Public Bar. You can't win sometimes. Attitudes were very different there then.



## TGDT Recognised at tsiMoray Social Enterprise Awards

Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust and our flagship project, The Smuggler's Hostel, received recognition at the recent local social enterprise awards.

The Smuggler's Hostel won the award for Growth while the Trust won the award for Enterprising Community Organisation. Mark Finnie, Chair of the Trust's trading subsidiary Tomintoul Hostel Ltd., was on hand to receive the award and remarked that the award was recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by trust staff and volunteers and he hoped it would inspire our community to continue to support the work of TGDT.

The judging panel, made up of business leaders and staff from organisations such as HIE and Moray Council, commented on how much TGDT had achieved in a relatively short space of time and commended TGDT on having had a real impact in their community.



Tomintoul & Glenlivet  
Development Trust



The seventh festival took place during a few days of settled weather and this greatly helped the enjoyment of the walks.

As usual a range of walks were on offer, bookings were slow but picked up in the last few days before the opening day.

Cairngorm Treks took walkers out for an overnight camp in the Cairngorms and some high mountain ascents.

Ben A'an was again a focus of one of the walks. People were also able to come and experience our great local area including;- the Ladder Hills, the Ailnack and Cairn Daimh. Feedback from participants was very positive.

I would like to thank all members of our team; Barry Horning, Simon Greaves, Myrrdin Irwen, Ali Horning, Ron Hughes, Amanda Burslow, Jessica Greaves, Tony Birchall and Patrick Wraight.

It does not seem to be seven years since we began and the festival has introduced many people to our beautiful area. I would like to thank Martin and everyone at the Richmond Hotel for organising a Ceilidh on the Sunday evening.

We will be reviewing the festival in October and deciding on the format for 2016. It is important I think for any event to challenge and to progress and we will bear this in mind as we plan for the future.

*Mike Fletcher,  
September 2015.*

### Richmond Memorial Hall

#### Committee Members

*Chairman:*

Roy Hill 01807 580296

*Vice Chairman:*

Michael Robertson 01807 580427

*Secretary:*

Jennifer Fraser 01807 580301  
Please contact Jennifer by email if possible on [jennwfraser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jennwfraser@hotmail.co.uk)

*Treasurer:*

Michele Birnie 01807 580221

*Hall Keeper:*

Bob Coutts 01807 580251



**TOMINTOUL**  
SPEYSIDE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

*the gentle dram*

find us...



# BALLINDALLOCH OIL CLUB

## BALLINDALLOCH HEATING OIL CLUB

	June 2015	February 2015	December 2014	September 2014
Volume	28,300	30,350 litres	19,400 litres	16,000 litres
Price + 5% VAT	37p	35p	43.5p	49.83p

### A 10% reduction in your heating oil bill

That is what we have achieved with our orders over the past two quarters based on the price quoted for the delivery of 1,000 litres in our area just prior to collating members orders.

Membership is free for deliveries to properties in the AB37 9 postcode, with orders collated quarterly.

For details of how the club operates please see [www.glenlivet.org.uk](http://www.glenlivet.org.uk) or telephone 01807 590458



*How does the Oil Club work? In this article Brain Fowler, the organiser, explains it.*

I usually send out email notices to members on Wednesday or Thursday, receive orders by Sunday evening, and then place our cumulative order with the cheapest local supplier on Monday. Minimum orders of 600 litres, please. The price achieved and expected delivery date will subsequently be confirmed to those who have placed orders.

In your email detailing your requirements please include your address plus post code and telephone number which assists my system in providing this information to the the supplier. Although I am pleased to request top ups the tanker does not carry a great deal over the volume of orders to be delivered.

The current quote for a delivery of 1,000 litres in our area ranges from 34p to 36p per litre plus 5% vat. Over the past year we have achieved June 37p, February 35p, December 43.5p and September 49.83p per litre, all plus 5% vat. We have achieved on average a 10% discount with our club

order but of course cannot guarantee this will always be the case.

The usual terms of credit are expected i.e. if an account is held which is normally the case after the first delivery to a customer by the supplier, then payment is due on receipt of invoice at the end of the month as opposed to delivery note. Where no account is held, for this first delivery payment must be made before delivery. Most suppliers apply a 2%/2.5% surcharge when payment is made by credit card so, to obtain the best price, I will agree these terms with the supplier on the basis this surcharge can be avoided by payment with a debit card or cheque. I am aware suppliers are being more innovative with their terms of credit but as the club is based on getting the best price possible this will dictate where I will place the cumulative order.

I next propose to seek orders in late November to ensure deliveries can be made before Christmas.

[www.glenlivet.org.uk](http://www.glenlivet.org.uk)

01807 590458



KATIA presents

# A Winter Wonderland

On  
Saturday December 5th, 2015  
in  
The Richmond Memorial Hall  
10:30 till 3:00pm

Refreshments  
Raffle  
Craft Stalls  
Games  
And.....  
SANTA too!



Please contact Janny Marshall on 01807 550287 if you would like a stall or if you can help in any way. Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments, setting out of stalls, clearing away, etc.



## BALLINDALLOCH BOUNDERS

DOG WALKING & BOARDING SERVICES

Offering a reliable dog walking, dog daycare and 24 dog boarding service in the Tomintoul and Ballindalloch area. We are family run, friendly, and passionate about animals and the outdoors.



We would love to help ensure your dog stays happy, healthy and stimulated both mentally and physically. So whether you work long hours or are simply away for the weekend, we can provide a professional, flexible service tailored to you and your dogs needs.

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dumpling cheese biscuits cakes oatcakes

# Macnab's Larder

A Delicatessen for  
**Tomintoul & Glenlivet**  
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5 Main Street  
Tomintoul  
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Self catering "welcome" packs supplied & delivered

and fish pâtés olives charcuterie pizza pies puddings  
smoked meat

honey oil black pudding haggis garlic jams marmalade  
pickles chutney tea

## Getting Ready for Christmas

### Pecan and Whisky Mincemeat

#### Ingredients

4oz ( 115g) Pecans, chopped  
 12 oz (350g) Cooking Apples, peeled, cored and finely chopped  
 7oz (200g) Plump Raisins  
 4oz (115g) Dried Apricots finely chopped  
 3oz (75g) Stoned Dates finely chopped  
 3oz (75g) Dried Figs finely chopped  
 5oz (150g) Sultanas  
 6oz (175g) Shredded beef or vegetable suet  
 4oz (115g) Dark Soft Brown Sugar  
 1tsp Ground Nutmeg - this is best freshly ground but ready made is fine  
 1tsp Ground Cinnamon  
 Pinch of All Spice  
 2 Oranges  
 1 Lemon  
 10fl oz (300ml) Whisky

#### Method

Finely grate the zest of the oranges and the lemon

Juice the fruits

Place all the ingredients into a non-metallic bowl stirring together thoroughly

Cover bowl and leave in a cool place for at least 24 hours stirring occasionally

Pack the mincemeat tightly into clean, dry jars pressing down to expel any air.

If you are using screw tops seal tightly otherwise cover and seal.

Store in a cool, dark, dry place for 6 – 8 weeks before using.

This mixture can be used as any other mincemeat however if you place a spoonful on filo pastry and bake them it is something different.

You can use brandy if preferred or Amaretto for a completely different taste.



### Bargnolino

#### Ingredient

1¾ pts (1l) alcohol - this can be gin or vodka or anything as long as it is 95%  
 2¼lbs (1kg) Sloe Berries  
 14oz (400g) Sugar  
 1 bottle White Wine  
 2 cloves  
 A small piece of Cinnamon stick  
 ½ a vanilla pod

#### Method

Prick the sloe berries with a needle and place in a large kilner jar with the alcohol, cloves, cinnamon and vanilla and leave for at least 50 days (say two months)

Filter the liquid and place in a clean container

Warm the white wine over a gentle heat, add the sugar and stir until dissolved

Allow to cool and add to the Sloe Liquor

Mix thoroughly and bottle.

This is a Christmas treat in Italy and is an alternative to Sloe Gin.

If you can not get Vanilla Pods use a small amount of Vanilla Extract.

## Tell Us All About It

Have you got a story to tell?

A comment to make?

Are you doing something you'd like to tell everyone about?

***Well.....get your pen and paper out, or your computer....and tell us all about it.***

This is your community magazine, and we want to hear from **YOU** and include your articles and pictures.



# Tomintoul Motorcycle Gathering

The third Tomintoul Motorcycle Gathering took place on the weekend of 10/11/12 July, a change from the September date of previous years. This proved to be a success with much better weather and fewer other events taking place.

Well over 1,000 attended from all over the UK with every conceivable type of bike. Friday night saw everyone settling in for the weekend and catching up with old (and new) friends over a few beers. Saturday brought various stalls and attractions to the Square as well as the mass ride out with many riders enjoying a run over the Bridge of Brown to Grantown, then home by Ballindalloch and Glenlivet.



success for local businesses as well as raising over £900 for charity. This year donations went to Roxburgh House Cancer Care, Aberdeen, MFR Bed's for Kids and a local charity.

Many thanks to all those who helped make it such a great weekend, it couldn't have happened without you! Thank you too to all those who attended and left Tomintoul immaculate.

There are lots of photos on the Facebook page, keep an eye on it for all the information on next year's event which has been set - 8 and 9 July. See you then!



Saturday evening's entertainment in the Richmond Memorial Hall with bands Slider and Full Metal Jacket was enjoyed by a full house.

Not only was this a great fun weekend it was a huge financial



*Thanks to Paul MacGregor for the photos.*

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**GIFTS GIFTS GIFTS GIFTS GIFTS**

**MASS TIMES FOR CATHOLIC CHURCHES**

*Tomintoul, Tombae and Chapeltown every third Sunday in turns at 9.30am*

Dufftown and Aberlour at 5pm Saturday

Parish Priest: Rev. C.M. Stewart  
 Times of morning Masses during the week vary.

These can be obtained by telephoning **01807 580381**





## News from Tomintoul Primary School



This year five Primary 1 children have joined the Primary School. In the Nursery there are currently ten children but a further three will start after Christmas. We have a very happy atmosphere in the school with the children working hard and achieving very well.

One of our main emphasis for learning this year is the Scottish Government's health and wellbeing indicators that ensure all agencies supporting children and their families 'Get It Right for Every Child'. These are Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurturing, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. (SHANARRI). All of our children are learning the language of SHANARRI and, more importantly, are behaving and working in such a way as to reflect these ideals.

There is lots of project learning in the school. The Nursery is learning through a project called 'In Tomintoul You Can See.....' Mitch, the senior nursery nurse, has also secured funding from the National Farmers Union that is enabling the Nursery to carry out regular farm visits to Colin and Kelly Stuart's Lettoch Farm in the Braes of Glenlivet. The children, dressed in their boiler suits sponsored by East Coast Viners Ltd, are having a fantastic time learning about the sheep and cattle.

In the Primary School, P1-4 are studying the Ancient Egyptians and say its one of the best projects ever! The children love learning about The Egyptians not only through books but also through song and art. They particularly enjoyed it when Mr Ramzy visited dressed in an authentic Pharaoh's

costume and brought many interesting Egyptian artefacts.

P5-7 are studying toys. They are contrasting and comparing toys from days gone by with those on the market today. Through the project they are improving their research and creativity skills.

The Parent Council recently hosted their third Harvest Show. It was a huge success with community members and school children coming together to create a huge show of arts, crafts and baking. Through the hard work of Parent Council members and other volunteers, the day was also a financial success with over £600 raised on the day and a further £700 being secured through sponsorship. Many thanks to everyone who organised worked at and came to the show.

Christmas will soon come around and we have lots of activities planned for the children but have not forgotten the wider community who are, of course, invited to come along to the school Christmas Service. This year the service will be in St Michaels RC Church on Wednesday 16th December. The dress rehearsal, to which all senior citizens are invited, will be at 10am and will be followed by refreshments in the St Michaels Centre. The evening service will be at 6pm and everyone is welcome to come along.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

*Nancy Fraser  
Head Teacher*

## **R**esponsibility **E**nthusiasm **A**chievement **L**earning

### Tomintoul Library Events

*Tuesday 20th October from 2.30pm until 3.30pm*

How to Save Money & Save Energy with REAP

Learn how to save energy and save money with free and impartial advice from REAP's energy advisors

*Tuesday 1st December from 3.30pm until 4.30pm*

Tomintoul Library Earthtime Craft and Storytime Session for Children and Parents

Let Earthtime Image result for earthtime morayhelp you to make your Christmas "robin themed" Image result for robin presents, decorations and bird feeders using recycled materials. For children and adults.

Contact Tomintoul Library on 01807 580755 or [tomintoul.library@moray.gov.uk](mailto:tomintoul.library@moray.gov.uk)



## Speyside High School

T: 01340 871522

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

In September the Rights Respecting Schools group are having a focus on Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This states that you have the right to the best possible health including safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment and information to stay safe and healthy.

In tutor time we will focus on the right to clean water. Unfortunately not all children are able to access this right and we want Speyside High School pupils to help them achieve it.

This month we are challenging tutor groups to raise money for a charity dedicated to helping improve children's access to safe water – Water Aid!

We are asking pupils and staff to collect as much brown money – 1ps and 2ps – and bring them into fill tutor group water bottles. The group that raises the most money will receive a small prize. Get collecting!

### PE DEPARTMENT

The PE Department has been commended by Education Scotland following a project that was financed by the National Core P.E> Fund. The recognition is for work in the Broad General Education (S1-S3) which has allowed pupils to develop confidence and self-esteem as well as problem solving and decision making through outdoor/adventurous learning.

### MY WORLD OF WORK AMBASSADORS

On Wednesday 23 September all S5 pupils were introduced to a personal development opportunity by Elizabeth Dumbell of Skills Development Scotland and Jenny Devlin of Third Sector Interface Moray. As a result of this meeting a number of pupils have volunteered to become My World of Work Ambassadors supporting Career Education in Speyside High School. The Ambassadors will lead initiatives in school to support younger pupils, provide assistance to parents and staff as well as develop skills supporting their own personal development. All of the effort that the volunteers make towards supporting this and other volunteer projects in school will contribute towards Saltire Awards. Well done to those who have already agreed to support the project and there is still room for more S5 Ambassadors, see your Guidance Teacher.

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH PLEA

Speyside High School are asking if there is anyone in our local and wider community who may be interested in giving some of their time to supporting young people through 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'? We have a number of young people at the school who want to start their award but not the adults to support them, and they cannot sign up to the award until we have some support in place. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is recognised as the 'world leading accreditation for young people' and the award has four sections at bronze and silver level (physical, volunteering, skills and expeditions) and at gold a fifth section (residential). The impact on young people, the adults that support them and our wider community can be extremely positive and beneficial in terms of the voluntary commitment young people can give back to their communities, the skills and experiences they can learn and the outdoor experiential learning opportunities they can gain. Adults can also gain valuable skills, experiences and qualifications as well as the knowledge that they are helping young people to make a difference, to themselves and their community. To begin to grow the DofE Award in Speyside High School we need adults who could help in a number of different roles, and if you feel inspired to help in some way or to support us in continuing this dialogue in how we can create a sustainable and effective DofE support structure, please do get in touch with Nigel Engstrand for more information.

DofE Coordinator: Links with the School and Moray Council's DofE Scheme; assists the DofE leaders in supporting young people.

DofE Leader: Helps a group (usually around 7 in each group) to enrol and inspires them to choose different activities to do in their own time by linking in with the wider community.

DofE Expedition Supervisor: Trains and supports a group in the 'Expedition' section of their award.

DofE Expedition Assessor: Assesses the groups' expeditions.

DofE Assessor: For other sections of the award the young people need to find assessors in their specific activity, such as a martial arts instructor, sports coach, anybody who has skills and experiences to 'assess' how well the young person has achieved.

(Training courses are available for all these roles through The Moray Councils' DofE Scheme)



# TOMINTOUL, GLENLIVET & INVERAVON CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CHARITY NUMBER SCOO1802

**Sunday Worship:**

**Inveravon - 9.30 am Tomintoul - 11.15 am.**

**All Welcome.**



If anyone would like the services of the Minister or other information about the church please contact any of the following:

Rev Chris Wallace, Minister      01807 580254  
Margo Stuart, Session Clerk      01807 580239  
Ann Wraight, Treasurer              01807 580712

### *Accordions and Flowers at Tomintoul Church*

The Annual Flower Festival took place in the Tomintoul Church on 27th and 28th June 2015. As usual the church was full of



beautiful floral displays, many of which were entered in a Silent Auction which was an innovation suggested by Margo Stuart. It worked well and this, together with the raffle and donations, raised a total of £875 for church funds.

Tomintoul School provided a most amusing model of a wind farm together with woolly sheep being blown over. At least one member tried to put them back on their feet before they realised the joke! On the

Sunday evening there was an innovative Songs of Praise Service, including a hymn accompanied by Bob Coutts on the accordion, Nicola Moss singing 'the Rose' (from the film of the life of Janice Joplin) accompanied most sympathetically by the Minister on the keyboard, whilst later Alec Grant sang 'Amazing Grace.'

Harvest Thanksgiving this year is 11th October 2015.

### *Tomintoul Church Decoration*

Now that the remedial work at Tomintoul Church has dried out, the decorators started work at the end of July. Due to the height of the walls a scaffolding tower was required and this required the pews to be removed. The day before the contractors were due to start church members could be seen carrying anything that wasn't nailed down from the church across the road to the hall. Meantime a temporary church was assembled in the hall which was used for a number of weeks whilst the decoration was completed. The church is now back in service and looking good. As one of Telford's Parliamentary Churches, it is now in good condition for the congregation and interested visitors for the future.

### *Can you solve the mystery of the mural?*

Does anyone know about the origins of the artwork in the church hall at Tomintoul? The mural, entitled 'God is Love' extends around the four walls and only a small part is shown in this picture.

It depicts children from around the world holding hands and linked together by a long ribbon. We understand that it may have been completed around the 1980s by children from Tomintoul School with the help of an art advisor. Were you one of



those children or can you throw any light on the artworks? If our dates are correct the mural has survived amazingly well over the years. With plans for future re-development of



the hall, it is hoped that a digital reproduction may be made so that it may be kept for posterity.

If you know anything about the origins of the mural please make contact with the minister or church contacts above.

#### *Church Management*

Although there are two churches at Tomintoul and Inveravon, there is one Kirk Session and one Congregational Board to manage the church. The Minister has recently set up committees to support these bodies and members had the opportunity to volunteer for different supporting roles.

#### *Bottle Race and BBQ*

The Annual Bottle Race and Barbecue took place at Glenlivet Hall on 22nd August 2015. As usual, the race took place down the Livet with the winning bottle collected just below the Glenlivet Hall by a team of ghillies including Hugh Monro and Patrick Wraight. On a fine evening the Barbecue proved popular and was provided by Charlie and Susan Ironside.

A total amount of £1,100 was raised for church funds.

#### *Presbytery Moderator*

Rev Chris Wallace is due to become moderator of the Presbytery of Abernethy. In celebration of this, church folk joined him for a celebratory afternoon tea at Ballindalloch Castle on 4th October 2015.

#### *Messy Church*

Messy Church is new way of 'being church' for families based on fun and involving creativity, hospitality and celebration. It has proved to be most successful so far and family groups are most welcome to come along.



The dates for autumn are as follows:

Wednesday 28th October, 4-6pm, Richmond Memorial Hall, Tomintoul

Monday 2nd December, 4-6pm, Glenlivet Hall

Tuesday 3rd December 4-6pm, Richmond Memorial Hall, Tomintoul

Tuesday 10th December, 3.30-5.30pm, Inveravon School

#### *Moray Food Bank*

There are collection boxes in both churches for receipt of donations of food, which must be dried or tinned, to support Food Banks throughout Moray. Our church contact is Ebeth Coutts, who is also happy to receive contributions from the community.

#### *Soup and Sweet*

The next Soup and Sweet will take place at Glenlivet Hall on Sunday 25th October in Glenlivet Hall at 12.30pm.

#### *Christmas Services*

The Christmas Service this year will be on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm in Tomintoul Church. There will be no service on Christmas Day this year.



# The Crown Estate Update



May was busy with events, with Smugglers themed walks for the Speyside Whisky festival as part of the well-attended Glenlivet Distillery open day, and bird box making activities as part of the Cairngorms Nature Festival. This was well attended and it is planned to make Tomintoul a hub for the nature festival again next year.

In June we welcomed the 3rd round of the Scottish Series Enduro mountain bike race to the Estate and bike centre and in partnership with the Development Trust we ran the Rock&Road cycle festival around this. The poor weather on the Saturday dampened a few spirits but the sun came out on Sunday for the Enduro race which saw 320 riders tackling the race. The family activities in the square were really popular with the paint art bike and smoothie bikes a big hit.

Wigwam Holidays are progressing their plans to create a site of wooden camping cabins beyond the Estate Office. Planning permission has been gained and planning conditions are currently being closed off, before installation of infrastructure starts. It is planned to have the cabins open for next Easter/Spring.

Much work is being done by all the partners in the Landscape Partnership Project at present; we aim to host a Scalan open day in Autumn (details yet to be confirmed) to discuss ideas for the use of the old agricultural mill buildings. As part of the natural history project we will be re-launching the wildlife recording group, this will be done at a local wildlife evening in Tomintoul on Sept 20th. If you can't make this but would be interested in being involved, please let Vicky know.

Draft designs and concepts have been submitted by students in a competition to design a viewpoint feature for Craig Haulkie Quarry, which was selected by the Scottish Government for inclusion in the Scenic Routes project (along with Glenshee and Corgarff) along the A939. We should know if there is a suitable design selected for construction by the end of September.

We are delighted to welcome Graeme Findlay to our team. Graeme replaces Alan Linee, our maintenance ranger who left back in March. We

will be working hard to catch up with estate maintenance tasks now we have a full quota of staff again. If you see any issues around the Estate please don't hesitate to let us know so we can address them.

As you may be aware, the management of Crown Estate assets in Scotland (including Glenlivet Estate) are to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament. The direct implications are not yet clear but we will keep you informed of the progress of these proposals. Currently the Scotland Bill (which includes the Crown Estate devolution) is progressing through the House of Commons.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us on any matters, call into the estate office in Tomintoul or phone us on 01479 870070 or email [info@glenlivetestate.co.uk](mailto:info@glenlivetestate.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook.

*Vicky Hilton (Countryside Manager)*

*Mike Libera (Forest Manager)*

## Deadline for Articles

Please note that the deadline for the Summer Edition of The Toulter is

**7th December, 2015.**

It is important that any articles meet this deadline in order for the editors to compile the magazine in time.

We are very grateful for all those who contribute any piece for The Toulter, and welcome any and all contributions, but late arrivals mean we have to re-arrange many pages already completed.

The sooner we have your articles the better. Thank you.

## TOMINTOUL & GLENLIVET DEVELOPMENT TRUST UPCOMING EVENTS!

### TOMINTOUL & GLENLIVET DEVELOPMENT TRUST AGM

Wednesday 11th November,  
Glenlivet Distillery, 7.30pm  
Teas, coffees and shortbread will be  
provided.

Come and join us for our AGM to hear what  
has been happening this year and meet  
some of the new Directors on the Board.

### SKERRYVORE

Returning to Tomintoul for a second year, as  
part of their World Tour! Come along for a  
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Saturday 7th November, 9pm,  
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Tickets £15!

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## TOULER MUSIC QUIZ.

Match the artist to the group

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bobby Pickett        | The Range             |
| 2. Elvis Presley        | The Sunsets           |
| 3. Prince               | The Cruisers          |
| 4. Dave Berry           | Quiver                |
| 5. Bruce Hornsby        | The Dreamers          |
| 6. Frankie Valli        | The Jordainaires      |
| 7. Freddie              | The Crypt Kicker Five |
| 8. Billiy J Kramer      | The Four Seasons      |
| 9. Johnny Johnson       | The Revolution        |
| 10. Siouxsie            | The Dakotas           |
| 11. Sutherland Brothers | The Bandwagon         |
| 12. Shakin Stevens      | The Banshees          |

Answers on page 29

## Quick Quiz

1. What is the name of the British base in Helmand Province, now closed?
2. Who wrote the music for "Sunshine on Leith".
3. Only two words end in "shion". What are they?
4. The proposed HS3 train, will go from where to where?
5. Who resigned as Scottish Labour party leader in October 2014?
6. Who presents the "Big Show", each afternoon 2pm on Radio 2?

Answers on page 28

## SNIPPETS

Only 15% of natural  
diamonds are good  
enough for jewellery.



## Seasonal Recipe - Rosehip Syrup

### Ingredients

2¼ lbs (1kg) Rosehips  
4½ pts (3l) Water  
8oz (450g) Sugar

### Method

Remove stalks and mince rosehips (do not leave once prepared as they will lose valuable vitamin C content)

Have ready a pan containing 3½ pts (2l) boiling water and add the prepared rose hips

Bring back to the boil, remove from heat and leave to infuse for 15 minutes.

Place the mixture in a jelly bag and allow to drain.

Return the strained pulp to the saucepan and add the remaining water.

Re-boil, remove from heat and infuse for 10 minutes then strain as before.

Place the liquid in a clean pan and simmer until reduced by approximately 2/3 rds - 1¾ pts (1l).

Add the sugar and stir until dissolved then boil for 5 minutes

Pour the hot syrup into warm, clean bottles with

1" (2.5 cm) tops. Do not fill to the top

Push newly boiled corks into bottles but not too tightly and tie with string

Place bottles in the deepest saucepan you have on a false bottom of paper and fill with cold water to the level of the syrup

Bring to boil slowly and simmer for 5 minutes to sterilize then remove bottles from pan.

Remove string and press corks in firmly.

Dry bottles and when corks are dry dip in melted paraffin wax to keep airtight.

This is lovely on its own or with ice cream.

I know that corking is a bit footery; however you can use screw top bottles but be sure that you do not tighten them completely when first bottled.

This is delicious, just like the stuff I remember as a child..

A word of warning - use gloves when preparing the rosehips as they will make you itch dreadfully if they come in contact with your skin.



### Richmond Memorial Hall

#### 200 Club Monthly Draw

#### JUNE 2015

73	Ronnie Smith	£30
191	Ron Hughes	£15
103	John Ferguson	£15
66	Sheila Thomson	£15

#### JULY 2015

162	Jenny Herschell	£30
58	Alex Smith (A'anside)	£15
183	Gordon Foster	£15
64	Monica Grant	£15

#### AUGUST 2015

141	Gordon McGillivray	£30
116	Shonagh Thomson	£15
127	Julie Grant	£15
47	Rosemary Smith	£15

*The Hall Committee wish to thank all members for their continued support. Funds raised go towards the upkeep of your hall.*

### TOMINTOUL MEDICAL CENTRE

#### 01340 820888

#### Consulting Hours

Mon:	9.00–10.30am 4.30–6pm & 6.00–6.15
Tues:	9.00–10.30am 2–4pm
Wed:	9.00–10.30am 2–4pm
Thur:	9.00–10.30am Surgery closed pm
Fri:	9.00–10.30am . 5–6pm

*In addition to consulting hours, Reception is open between 8am and noon Mon - Fri for the ordering of repeat prescriptions, booking appointments, etc. Please allow 2 working days when ordering repeat prescriptions as not all medications are kept in stock at all times.*

*There is a GP on call 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.*

## Letter to the Editor

*My Aunt Jean and Uncle Gordon Campbell were regular visitors to Tomintoul, normally staying in their caravan parked behind 31, Main Street (Rhyndorran) where my mother and stepfather lived. They made the mistake of spending one New Year in the village and this is the poem my uncle wrote on his return to Larbert. For the Toulers who should recall most names in the poem Larry was a friend of Mark's from Glasgow.*

### New Year 1973

Eddie John, I have come to hear,  
almost collapsed at the New Year.  
Ina heard his frightful cry,  
about some object in the sky.  
He told her that if she must have proof,  
to look over towards Grant House roof.  
Ina unconcerned about a spook,  
went to the door to have a look.  
Poor Ina got a dreadful fright,  
when this queer object came to light.  
High up on her chimney top,  
dressed in a hip length flimsy frock,  
was Peggy erecting her new weather-cock.  
Peggy dressed like this to try,  
to entertain the passers-by.  
She now knows to her cost,  
the danger of being exposed to frost.  
Jack Frost can be a nasty lad,  
when he meets a damsel scantily clad.  
Jack, a master of his art,  
quickly attacks the most tender part.  
Eddie now seated at the fire,  
looking as if about to expire.  
He kept muttering over his tea and toast,  
"As sure as death I saw a ghost.  
When first I saw the apparition,  
I felt a vague apprehension,  
stealing over me like a freeze,  
causing me to wobble at the knees".  
Peggy has been heard to say;  
"It looks as if I have had my day;  
let those who wish dress up as freaks,  
for me it is now two pairs of breeks."  
First-footers came to hear the refrain,  
on Peggy Smith's weather-vane.

Whisky, vodka, gin and beer,  
soon had the company in good cheer.  
They sang and danced, those who were able,  
while others lay beneath the table.  
A few lay sprawling on the floor;  
the year to them might have been three or four.  
Eddie, Larry, Jack and Mark, always good for a lark.  
While Peggy, always the bright spark,  
discards for good her cutty-sark.  
The carousers to a man,  
had first called on Bob Mathieson;  
people come from near and far,  
to patronise Bob's well kept bar.  
He serves up both drink and food  
and suggests a stake in Littlewood.  
On New Year's Day there was not a soul  
to be seen in the streets of Tomintoul,  
those suffering from a splitting head,  
had the good sense to stay in bned.  
Two Glaswegians, drunk the night before,  
had no means of getting to Aviemore;  
they had to depend on baker Birnie,  
to see them halfway on their journey.  
We know not what another year may bring,  
but should the weather-cock take wing,  
being somewhat sparce of feather,  
he could perish in the wintry weather.  
Peggy would be sad to see him go,  
she regards him as her dearest beau.

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# Tomintoul Highland Games

This year was the 174th running of Tomintoul Highland Games and although the day was not the best that we have experienced it was dry. The weather in the week running up to Games Day was mixed and the forecast for the day was very mixed with rain forecast for most of the day. We had discussions as to what action we should take but since

we have alternative arrangements for the dancing we decided that we would, as ever, just have to wait and see. We were already aware that Stonehaven, which takes place the day after us, was cancelled but we decided to go ahead and pray for good weather

Games day was dry but windy and we took the decision not to run the Mace over the Bar Competition as the setting up of the poles would be challenging and the mace could be carried in the wind and may injure someone. That is something that could not be allowed to happen. Due to the wind we experienced difficulties with the Dancing Board Cover and after trying to reattach it to the frame with the attached fastenings we were assisted by Edward Stuart who provided ropes which some members of the Fire Brigade fastened over



the top of the canopy to keep it down on to the frame.

As regards competitors we had six Senior Pipers, not many but the ones that appeared are among the top pipers in Scotland in 2015, five Under 14 Junior Pipers and five 14-17 Junior Pipers. This is an encouraging increase in competitors.

Three Senior Heavies and five Juniors. The afternoon's competition was boosted by some of the Juniors participating. There were five Local Heavies and as ever the competition was keen. There were nine Light Event Athletes and this number increased for the dash and 800 metres. This year we had a new judge for the Light Events; although it was published as Donald Bradley from Inverness, his brother Alistair actually did most of the judging as Donald participated in some of the races. Hopefully this relationship will continue for years to come. There were three Tug-o-War teams although we did not have a local competition this year. There were 39 runners in the Hill Race covering a wide range of sections and we had 98 Highland Dancers. The Fancy Dress in the evening was well attended and the costumes were very good. Despite the fact that the day was windy the fun events drew lots

participants both young and not so young. Colin Fraser retained his crown in the Senior Pillow Fight and the picture in the P&J on the Monday following Games showed him in action. Full details of the winners for all the competitions can be seen on the Games website,

the  
*Old*  
Firestation



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### Answers Quick Quiz...

1. Camp Bastion.
2. The Proclaimers.
3. Cushion and fashion.
4. Leeds to Manchester.
5. Joanne Lamont.
6. Steve Wright.



www.tomintoulhighlandgames , however if you do not have access to the internet I can provide you with a paper copy.

This year we had a new Pipe Band in attendance with Bucksburn playing along side Ballater and District who have attended Tomintoul for many years now. We also had a change of Band for the Games Dance with Peyton Place providing the entertainment. We finished up our weekend with the Games Raffle, this year Ros Tansley has taken on this task.

We had a successful day despite the wind; at least it was dry; and the fact that there were three other Games and an Agricultural Show on the same day.

I would like to thank all those business and individuals that sponsor Tomintoul Games, those who advertise in our Programme; the Patrons of Tomintoul Games, the number of patrons are increasing year on year; I would also like to thank all those who donated prizes for the raffle Without this support we could not stage a

Games as we do. I would also like to thank all those who worked both on the Park and on the Gates during the day and the boys and girls who worked at the Dance at night. These people are all volunteers and their assistance is invaluable.

I would also mention that this year saw Braemar's 200 anniversary and two members of each Games within the Grampian Games Association were asked to attend. Johnny Shewan and Johnny Irvine marched for Tomintoul and they both advised that the atmosphere on this occasion was excellent

Tomintoul and Strathavon Highland Games Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Richmond Arms Hotel on Friday 27th November at 8.00p.m. If you are interested please come along.

*Patricia Grant  
Secretary*

Many thanks to Malcolm Cross for the photographs used in this article.



### Answers to the Music Quiz.....

Bobby Pickett and the Crypt Kicker Five  
 Elvis Presley and the Jordainaires,  
 Shakin Stevens and the Sunsets  
 Prince and the Revolution  
 Dave Berry and the Cruisers  
 Freddie and the Dreamers  
 Johnny Johnson and the Bandwagon  
 Siouxsie and the Banshees  
 Sutherland Brothers and Quiver  
 Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons  
 Billy J Kramer and the Dakotas  
 Bruce Hornsby and the Range

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# Tomintoul Golf Open 2015

This year's Tomintoul Golf Open was held at Ballindalloch Golf Course. A good time was had by all. A really, really good time was had by quite a few as well – judging by the loud clinking sounds coming from their trolleys as they set off.

Many toasts were drunk throughout the day in memory of Matt Kane – a stalwart of Tomintoul Golf for so many years and very sadly missed.

The weather was kind, and as the game progressed, it seemed to affect some of the golfers – some found it more difficult to count and some even appeared to have some trouble walking. Indeed, one was so tired and emotional that he did not complete the course.

It was great to see how some of the younger golfers such as Digby and Ian McCann are benefitting from the wisdom and encouragement of older members such as Stephen Herschell and Donald Corr – who are always ready to give advice on technique, or a shoulder to cry on when they are struggling. Equally, it was heartening to see some of the really old golfers like Donald McKinnon coming out of retirement, brushing the cobwebs off their niblicks, and managing to hurple round the course.

But that's the spirit of Tomintoul Golf.



Local Champion Digby and Pairs winners Ian Wilson and Wayne Meldrum



Thanks to everyone who contributed prizes and to the Glenavon for putting on a fine spread.

Thanks too, to The Richmond, The Whisky Castle, Clockhouse, Balfour Manor, Glenavon, Post Office, Tomintoul Gallery and all other contributors.

Open Champion - Wayne Meldrum

Local Champion - Digby

Seniors Champion - Peter McFall

Team Winners - Ian Wilson, Wayne Meldrum, John McFall

Pairs Winners - Ian Wilson, Wayne Meldrum

Nearest The Pin - Tim Pilkington

Longest Drive - Digby

Wooden Spoon - Andrew Sim



Open Champion Wayne Meldrum with Reuel Chisholm and Donald MacKInnon



Andrew Sim, winner of the Wooden Spoon.

## Advertising Rates for the Toulter

The following charges will be payable for advertisements in the Toulter

1/6th. page (60mm x 120mm)  
: £5 per insertion.

1/4. page (120mm x 90mm)  
: £10 per insertion.

Clubs : Free of Charge.

**Please send all articles as doc. files, and all adverts as jpg files.**



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## How to contact **'The Toulter'**

by EMAIL: [thetouler@yahoo.com](mailto:thetouler@yahoo.com)

or by POST: **The Toulter, c/o Corrievaich,  
Cults Drive, Tomintoul AB37 9HA**

OR In person to any of the editorial team, who are:

*Pam Fletcher, Mike Fletcher,  
Patricia Grant, Jenny Herschell,  
Meg Smith, Sheila Thomson, and Nigel Varey.*

**THE TOULER AUTUMN EDITION  
will be published in January 2016.  
DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS  
is 7th December 2015.**

Please submit contributions via email to:  
**[thetouler@yahoo.com](mailto:thetouler@yahoo.com)**

or by hand to one of the editorial committee.

Views and comments expressed in letters and articles are not necessarily the views of The Toulter Editorial Team who reserve the right to refuse publication and also to edit letters and articles received

Back issues of The Toulter can be seen online:  
**<http://oldtoulter.weebly.com/>**

### SPONSORSHIP OF THE TOULER

If you or your business would be willing to sponsor an edition of 'The Toulter', then we would like to hear from you. Sponsorship ensures at least front page acknowledgment, an advertisement and editorial (if supplied), plus unlimited satisfaction in knowing that you are providing continuing support to a premier local newsletter.

Please Contact: Jenny Herschell  
on **01807 580 287**

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**To all our readers we welcome  
your input. Become part of your  
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important that you make  
contributions.**

*Comment or Complaint?  
Let us know!*

Please come along to our **'IDEAS'**  
meeting on the 3rd August 2015 at  
8pm  
in the Glenavon Hotel.

## USEFUL NUMBERS

**Childline:** 0800 1111

### **Grampian Police:**

Tomintoul Police Station: 01807 580222  
Service Centre: 101 (non-emergency calls)

### **Hospitals**

Dr Gray's, Elgin: 08454566000  
Raigmore, Inverness: 01463 704000  
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary: 08454 566000

### **Medical Centres**

Tomintoul: 01340 820888  
Glenlivet: 01807 590273

**Moray Council:** 08457 565656  
(emergency out of hours contact)

**Moray Women's Aid:** 01343 548549

**NHS 24:** 08454 24 24 24

### **Road Gritting Info:**

Tomintoul Depot: 01807 580231  
A939 Lecht: 01975 651440  
(Corgarff-Tomintoul)

**The Samaritans:** 08457 90 90 90

### **Tomintoul Primary School:**

01807 580271 - Head Teacher: Mrs N Fraser

**Scottish Hydro-Electric:** 0800 300 999

### **Scottish Water:**

0845 600 601 (customer services)  
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